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BOROUGH OF BECCLES

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1945
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(L. GIBSON, M.B., D.P.H.)

The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Beccles.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2017
Registrar General's estimate of the population (mid 1945)	5828
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to the Rate Book	2295
Rateable Value	£35,557
Penny Rate - estimated net produce	£138

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate Live Births	97	47	50	Birth rate per 1000 resident population 18.87.
Illegitimate "	13	8	5	
Stillbirths	3	2	1	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 26.55.
Deaths	101	54	47	Death rate per 1000 estimated resident population 17.33.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			1	Death rate per 1000 (live and still) births 8.85.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	-	2	2

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births	18.18
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	20.62
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
" Measles "	-
" Whooping Cough	-
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-

Comparison of 1945 with previous years:-

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	England & Wales 1945
Population (estimated)	6708	6326	6309	6383	6274	5828	
Births	83	93	82	105	129	110	
Birth Rate per 1000	12.37	14.7	13.0	16.45	20.56	18.87	16.1
Deaths	107	90	94	89	85	101	
Death rate per 1000	15.9	14.23	14.9	13.94	13.5	17.33	11.4
Infant deaths	5	3	6	1	3	2	
Infantile mortality rate	56.2	28.3	73.2	9.5	23.25	18.18	46
Cancer death rate	1.93	3.00	2.69	2.35	2.07	1.716	1.945
Respiratory tuberculosis death rate	0.59	0.00	0.63	0.31	0.16	0.686	0.519

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	:	Dr. L. Gibson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	:	Mr. C. L. Hamby, M.I.M.C.E.
Meat Inspector	:	Mr. J. C. Taylor, M.R.C.V.S.

They are part-time Officers of the Council.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Since April, 1938, infectious diseases have been treated at the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital in return for payment of a proportion of their annual charges. During the year we have been fortunate in having no cases to send to Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The motor ambulance of the Beccles Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is available for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases. This service has proved adequate and satisfactory.

Infectious cases are removed by the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital ambulance.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Clinic continues to progress satisfactorily. The Centre is at present at the Rectory Room, Ballygate, and is open on Tuesday afternoons.

The following are comparative figures:-

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Average weekly attendance	32	29	27	35	34	29	25
New cases during year	38	63	85	155	81	76	134

The Centre was opened on 50 occasions. A doctor attended at all the sessions. There were 97 children under 1 year of age, who put in 726 attendances. There were 37 children between the ages of 1 and 5 years of age, who put in 523 attendances. 77 children under 5 were immunised against diphtheria.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The property of the Borough is inspected from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector or myself. Three informal notices were served and complied with.

WATER SUPPLY

2182 premises are supplied by the Beccles Waterworks Company, deducting 45 places of business leaves 2137 houses supplied. The supply has been adequate and satisfactory. No stand pipes are used in the area.

A recent analysis gave the following results in parts per 100,000:-

Free Ammonia	.002	
Albumenoid Ammonia	.001	
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°c.	.02	
Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nil	
Nitrites	Nil	
Chlorine in Chlorides	11.57	
Total Hardness	34.85	or 24.39° Clark
Permanent Hardness	13.57	or 9.49° Clark

Bacterial reports:-

	February	May	October
B. Coli in 100 cc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Plate Count of Bacteria 2 days at 37°c. per cc.	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING

Sites have been chosen for both temporary and permanent houses.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Slaughtering has been restricted to one slaughterhouse in the Borough.

MEAT INSPECTION

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, 318 inspections have been made by the Meat Inspector and 6035 carcases inspected.

Carcases inspected and condemned:-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	1248	415	1861	1873	638
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcase condemned	4	16	9	2	43
Part carcase condemned	444	162	27	97	72
Percentage diseased of number inspected	35.9	42.8	1.93	5.28	18.02

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcase condemned	16	40	-	-	14
Part carcase condemned	304	201	-	-	95
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	25.64	58.07	-	-	17.08

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Paratyphoid B.	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Measles	5	-	-
Jaundice	3	-	-

AGES OF CANCER DEATHS

Males 63, 67, 70, 72 and 80
Females 25, 50, 59, 66, and 74.

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods:-	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 "	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
15-25 "	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
25-35 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35-45 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

On the Register at the beginning of the year there were 22 respiratory (15 males and 7 females) and 6 non-respiratory (4 males and 2 females).

During the year 3 respiratory (2 males and 1 female) and 4 non-respiratory (4 females) were added.

Of those on the Register 4 died, 3 respiratory (2 males and 1 female) and 1 non-respiratory (male), 1 recovered, a non-respiratory male, and 2 removed from the district; 1 respiratory male and 1 non-respiratory female, leaving 21 respiratory (15 males and 6 females) and 7 non-respiratory (1 male and 6 females).

3 respiratory cases received Sanatorium treatment and 1 non-respiratory received Hospital treatment.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 80 children under 5 years of age and 19 between the ages of 5 and 15 completed treatment.

Since immunisation started 518 children under 5 and 1252 between the ages of 5 and 15 have completed treatment.

I wish to tender to the Sanitary Inspector and other Borough Officials my best thanks for their kind assistance during the year.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LAURENCE GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

29th June, 1946.